

Honour is the latest chapter for Forsyth

Novelist Frederick Forsyth's CBE award comes just months after the Prime Minister took him aside at a Downing Street reception and warned him that his newspaper articles were damaging the Tories.

Mr Forsyth, who says he has been a Conservative voter all his life, attended the inaugural conference of Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party in Brighton in October.

Though he has not joined the party, claiming he is not "a joiner", he said at the time that he believed he was typical of between two and three million Tory voters at odds over European policy and prepared to give Sir James their votes this time round.

The CBE awarded in today's honours to author Frederick Forsyth may be the final seal on a 35-year fiction career which has seen him become possibly Britain's favourite thriller writer.

Earlier this year, 58-year-old Forsyth shocked fans by announcing his plans to give up novels and concentrate on his 175-acre Hertfordshire sheep-farm. Despite his remarkable popularity, he claims to hate writing and to be "purely mercenary", producing his novels for the money.